

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

THE CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
407 Clinton Street – P.O. Box 4159
Delaware City, Delaware 19706
Phone: 302-834-4573 Fax: 302-832-5545

**MINUTES
CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
MAYOR & COUNCIL - BUDGET WORKSHOP & PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 6:00p.m.
DELAWARE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER
250 FIFTH STREET**

BUDGET WORKSHOP FY23 & PUBLIC HEARING OF MAYOR & COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the May 31, 2022 Budget Workshop to order at 6:00p.m.

He also called to order at 6:00p.m. the Public Hearing for those interested in the Second Reading and Possible Adoption of Ordinance 22-0524-01 To Amend Requirements in All Special Flood Hazard Areas of the City of Delaware City by Amending Sections 48-19 (D) and (E) of the City of Delaware City Code. (At 6:00p.m. no public was in attendance). He closed the Public Hearing at 6:45p.m. with no residents having attended.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Johnson and Vice Mayor Barrett were present. Also in attendance were Council Members Konkus, Saunders, Price, and Cornish. City Manager Baylor and Finance Manager Graham were also present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1) Budget Workshop FY23

Finance Manager Graham: Under Public Safety/Code Enforcement salaries were increased to \$24,960 (plus payroll taxes of \$2,250). Salaries were also added for a new full-time police officer and part-time officers for a total of \$100,000 (plus payroll taxes of \$9,000). A line under Public Safety/Total Revenue was added for ARPA funds used for public safety. The Operating Transfer increased due to these changes. She also presented a 1%, 2%, and 3% increase in salaries.

Council Member Konkus: She asked why the 2022 budget was more than the proposed 2023 budget for police officers. Finance Manager Graham said it was because in 2022 the city had more officers. The proposed full-time and part-time officers for 2023 are categorized on a different line at the end.

Council Member Saunders: On the line of General Fund Revenues, how much of the water fund is left over? Finance Manager Graham said approximately \$326,000 (of this, \$260,000 has been utilized already).

Finance Manager Graham: She added money for the Maintenance/Building Community Center, per previous discussion. She also added a line for Drainage for ARPA funds (Contractual Services DR— ARPA). She increased the tree maintenance budget to \$30,000. She added \$15,000 (plus \$1,350 of payroll taxes) for the new part-time employee at town hall. She added the phone system and technology replacement for \$30,000. The Public Safety Operating Transfers increased due to public safety salary changes. There is \$393,632 left in the ARPA funds. This money can be used for any government services. Another ARPA allotment will be received before 07/01/2022.

Mayor Johnson: He asked what the capital gains are currently? Finance Manager Graham replied that “we are at a loss,” due to an awful financial market. The proposed PILOT program changes would increase revenue. He asked how long do we have to use the ARPA funds? Finance Manager Graham said, 12/31/2026 is the deadline to have the ARPA funds contracted.

Council Member Saunders: He brought up a “new item” for the budget. 2026 is the Bicentennial for the city. He wonders about budgeting a small amount of money each year so we can have a nice celebration in 2026? Mayor Johnson said we should be eligible for grant-in-aid funding. Mayor Johnson said he did not “feel comfortable” adding it to this budget, since the Bicentennial is several years off and some planning needs to occur before budgeting money. Forming a committee would be a good first step.

Vice Mayor Barrett: She is in favor of a 3% payroll increase.

Council Member Saunders: When will the last PILOT payment be? Finance Manager Graham it was in September 2021 (for the year 2022). No payment will be received this year, unless an agreement is reached. Mayor Johnson is confident some kind of agreement will be made.

Vice Mayor Barrett made a motion to except a 3% salary increase. This was seconded by Council Member Konkus.

(Council Member Saunders asked how “competitive” the city is in pay, with a 3% increase. City Manager Baylor said he will be working on presenting a pay matrix that will provide data on how the city compares with other same-sized Delaware towns. Currently, the city is on the “low end” of comparative pay for employees).

A roll call was taken, and all members were in favor. The motion passed.

2) Second Reading and Possible Adoption of Ordinance 22-0524-01 To Amend Requirements in All Special Flood Hazard Areas of the City of Delaware City by Amending Sections 48-19 (D) and (E) of the City of Delaware City Code.

City Manager Baylor: The city recently went through a review by the Community Rating System. It was determined that one provision in the ordinance had to be removed so that the City could keep its high rating. The rating numbers have a direct impact on the cost of personal flood insurance. If this change is not done it would be harder and more expensive to get insurance.

Council Member Konkus made a motion to approve Ordinance 22-0524-01 by modifying Sections 48-19 (D) and (E) of the city code. It was seconded by Council Member Price. A roll call was taken, and all members were in favor. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnson entertained a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Barrett made the motion. Council Member Cornish seconded the motion. *Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:50p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Tina Pincus
City Secretary*